## Meeting Notes

**Improving Student Learning at Scale Team Meeting**

March 31st, 2014, 8:00am-2:00pm

State Board for Community & Technical Colleges, Olympia

**Attendees (listed alphabetically by first name):**

*Team Members-* Alan Burke (OSPI), Ben Rarick (SBE), Chris Barron (Partnership for Learning), Rep. Chris Reykdal (Legislature), Dan Bissonnette (OSPI), Gene Sharratt (WSAC), Jan Yoshiwara (SBCTC), Jane Sherman (COP), Jessica Vavrus (OSPI), Justin Montermini (WTECB), Kevin Chase (Grandview School District), Marcie Maxwell (Governor’s Office), Mike Hubert (OSPI), Noreen Light (WSAC), Rai Nauman Mumtaz (WSAC), Randy Spaulding (WSAC), Tom Fitzsimmons (ICW)

*Staff-* Aaron Wyatt (WSAC), Karl Smith (UW- Tacoma), Mark Bergeson (WSAC), Noreen Light (WSAC),

*Legend-*

OSPI- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

SBE- State Board for Education

WSAC- Washington Student Achievement Council

WTECB- Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

COP- Council of Presidents

ICW- Independent Colleges of Washington

**Overview**

1. Review Project Matrix
2. Core to College Update (Bill Moore)
3. Washington’s Transforming Professional Learning for Reform: Common Core and More, District Network Project (WA-TPL) Update (Jessica Vavrus, Dan Bissonnette)
4. HB 2383 (Rep. Reykdal)
5. High School and Beyond Plan
6. Dual Credit Workgroup
7. Discuss Communications Plan
8. Feedback on Draft Mid-term Report
9. Next Cross-state Meeting and Wrap-up

**Discussion of Project Matrix**

* There are numerous efforts relating to Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and many are not well connected
* We need to make professional development a priority--- what the standards are, and how to access resources
* Curriculum resource sharing is needed to support implementation of CCSS
* Open Course Library Project- is a similar project needed for CCSS?
* There is a disconnect between school districts in the implementation of CCSS
* Is there a National Resource Library being developed for CCSS?
* Example: “Math Design Collaborative”

**Core to College**

The Core to College grant project aims to develop a consensus on the role of the Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment to inform high school and college level coursework. The workgroup currently has a set of draft recommendations for use of remedial exemption and transition courses. Next year, 10-12 pilot districts will be testing the development of transition courses for students who score a 2 on the Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment.

* There is still some concern from team members that completing a transition course would permit exemptions from remediation at the college level. At one time Washington State University used SAT scores to determine placement, but stopped because it was not an accurate predictor of college success
* The transition courses will develop a *process*. It will also create partnerships between the nearby colleges and school districts
* By mid-April, the Core to College group will have a blueprint developed for transition courses
* Some colleges/schools are already working together to develop transition courses (ex: Shoreline Community College and Shoreline School District are developing one for English Language Arts; North Shore School District and Cascadia Community College are developing one for Math)
* Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs) and the public baccalaureate sectors seemed to agree that there should be a common framework across higher education for how to use the Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment
* Public baccalaureates will come to consensus on how they will use the SBAC, individual schools will sign on the agree; CTCs will sign by common agreement
* Transition courses offer students a second chance to demonstrate college readiness (first chance is Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment)
* Transition courses in math solidify algebraic reasoning, applications, and models (not Caclulus or STEM track)
* Transition courses could fulfill certain graduation requirements, possibly a 3rd credit of math; could serve as a collection of evidence courses
* It is essential to pilot these courses in 2014-15 and have them be fully operational by 2015-16

**WA-TPL**

Jessica Vavrus, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Dan Bissonnette, Project Manager from OSPI spoke to the team about WA-TPL and the Smarter Balanced Digital Library. To review these documents and the PowerPoint, please visit our [Wiki page](http://improvingstudentlearningatscale.wikispaces.com/March+31+Meeting).

OSPI recently received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation to create support systems for educators during the CCSS implementation period. OSPI is partnering with Learning Forward Washington and nine ESDS during this project. There will be 150 participating schools, and teachers will complete the Learning Forward Standards. In addition, each district will have access to a Learning Forward Coach.

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library is one of the Smarter Balanced Assessment system components. It will provide professional learning and support related to CCSS for educators. This could also be a great way to share resources.

*Group Discussion:*

* Make sure we’re including lab time for individualized English Language Learners (ELL) and Special Education students
* 26 states collaborated on the development for the Smarter Balanced Digital Library
* Soft launch for Smarter Balanced Digital Library to K-12 educators will be end of April, fall 2014 open to all K12, maybe open to higher education in the future?
* We may create a teacher collaboration feature as part of the Smarter Balanced Digital Library
* Resource examples: “Equip,” “Go First,” and “ED First”
* Tittle II grant products could also be vetted and added to the Smarter Balanced Digital Library

**HB 2383**

[House Bill 2383](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/2383.pdf) was sponsored by Representative Reykdal during the 2013-14 Legislative Session. The bill puts into statute much of the work education agencies in Washington are already doing relating to dual credit. Although HB 2383 did not pass, much of the work is still moving forward. It would be useful to use the bill as a framework for our ISLS collaborative and our future endeavors. Perhaps the report required in the bill could be written anyway, and sent to the NGA.

**High School and Beyond Plan**

To view the PowerPoint presentation, please visit our [Wiki page](http://improvingstudentlearningatscale.wikispaces.com/March+31+Meeting).

The High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) is a graduation requirement for all students in Washington State, set by the State Board for Education. It is a plan students create beginning in 8th grade to facilitate thinking about their high schools/post school goals, interests, and future careers. The plan is continuously revised throughout high school.

The HSBP is important to allow students to set meaningful goals, and begin think about steps to achieve them. It is important to honor the reflective work students do, and making these plans meaningful is intensive work, but we see results.

Currently, the way the HSBP is used varies throughout districts. One thing that seems to be working in other states is the use of an online tool/portal. This would allow parents and students to easily access their plans, and at the same time increase the functionality and value of the HSBP. It would also benefit counselors, teachers, and administrators. A few aspects included the online HSBP tool would be:

1. Course Planning- link to student schedule, track graduation requirements
2. Career Planning- goal tracking and interest assessments
3. College Planning- track test scores and provide resources for financial aid, applications, etc…

Career Guidance WA Evidence Supported Elements:

* Advisories
* College and Career Readiness curriculum
* Individual planning portfolio
* Student-led conference
* Student-informed scheduling
* Evaluation
* Program management
* Integration within a comprehensive guidance and counseling program

The HSBP addresses many of the skills and abilities covered by CCSS, and also ones not covered (e.g. conflict management resolution, mentoring skills, leadership skills, etc…). There is a difference between CCSS and being career ready. CCSS prepares students academically but it is crucial that we consider other valuable skills needed in the workforce. Washington has a readiness gap--- a recent survey found there is a deficiency of skills currently in the workforce, such as occupational skills, positive work habits, and communication skills. The HSBP is aiming to help fill this void by creating focused plans for students that contain short and long term academic and career goals.

**Dual Credit**

The purpose of the dual credit workgroup is to recommend legislative language to create a dual enrollment/ dual credit system, while meeting the criteria outlined in WSAC’s Roadmap. It is possible that in the end, legislation may not be necessary if changes can be implemented through other means. The main goals of the dual credit workgroup are:

* Provide clear information about each option in ways that empower high school students to choose the option best suited to their goals and schedules.
* Provide low-cost options for high school students and their families.
* Ensure adequate funding for high schools and postsecondary institutions to maintain high-quality options.
* Increase the availability of all options to more high school students.
* Streamline processes for obtaining postsecondary credit.

The group’s next meeting will be held Monday, May 12th 12:30pm- 3:30pm at ESD 113.

**Communications Plan**

*Background:*

The Core to College grant project aims to “foster long-term collaborations between state higher education and K-12 entities that will improve student college readiness and increase rates of enrollment and graduation, using the Common Core State Standards definition of college readiness to signal a student’s preparedness for credit-bearing college courses.” One of the project’s goals is to develop a consensus on the role of the Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment to inform high school and college level coursework.

*Proposed Plan:*

As the secondary and postsecondary sectors come to agreement on the use of the Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment to exempt students from remediation at the college level, providing accurate and meaningful information to parents, students, and educators will be critical. Currently, many students, parents, and educators are unaware of the implications of the Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment. Strategic messaging about the use of the Smarter Balanced assessment needs to be developed, specifically targeted at the following groups:

1. Students and parents
2. K-12 educators, counselors, and other staff
3. Postsecondary faculty and advisors

If stakeholders are more informed about how the Smarter Balanced Assessment relates to high school and college coursework, information will be communicated more effectively between all parties and students can make better decisions on what coursework to take in high school.

Messaging will be developed for the three target audiences, and messaging materials will be developed and made available in print-ready and post-ready formats.

*Group Conversation:*

* Some information that should be included is FAQs and videos for teachers and the general public
* Right now ReadyWA has been focusing on CCSS basics, so the next step is to provide more complex messaging
* We could also provide other information bundled together on CCSS, HSBP, Smarter Balanced Assessment information, and the new 24 credit graduation requirements.
* Concern about special education students; how are we going to balance the new requirements with individualized student needs?
* We should target messaging at those first impacted; ex: current seventh graders will be impacted by CCSS (class of 2019)

**Review Draft Report**

WSAC reviewed the draft midterm report that will be submitted to the NGA in May. The purpose of the report is so NGA can establish the ISLS Collaborative’s current progress, technical assistance needs, and next steps.

* Let’s make sure the ISLS collaborative stays focused on connecting existing work, promoting communication across sectors, and creating alignment and collaboration. This is not about competition.

**Next Cross-state Meeting and Wrap Up**

Our next cross-state meeting will be September 22-23 (Monday-Tuesday). The location is still TBD, however it will be somewhere in the middle of the country.

*Topics:*

* how to work with legislators
* breakout sessions on teacher evaluation and aligning K-12 and postsecondary transition courses (WA would obviously go to the later)
* communications work
* human capital
* state sharing of project updates and guided team time

*Team Members:*

NGA will pay for 7 team members; the 7 sectors stated in grant are:

1. WSAC
2. SBCTC
3. SBE
4. OSPI
5. GOV
6. LEG
7. COP

WSAC will follow up with team members to figure out who will be attending the cross-state meeting. Our next team meeting will be Thursday, May 22nd, 1pm-4pm at ESD 113.

*For any questions and/or comments, please contact:*

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